



## Governor's Fire Service Policy Council

1:00 p.m. • Thursday, October 22, 2020  
Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal  
Virtual

**Call to Order:** Chair Hallman called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

### Roll Call:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Les Hallman, President              | <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Carriger, OFVA                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Heffner, OSFM     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Kreutzer, Vice President       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Bolen, OFMA                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karl Koenig, OSFFC        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constantine Severe, Gov's Office               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eriks Gabliks, Ex-Officio, by phone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Critchley, LOC      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mariana Ruiz-Temple, Exec. Director | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dana Selover, Ex-Officio            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Jantzi, SDAO        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deputy Harrington, Ex-Officio       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris McLaran, Insurance            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Neron, Public Member |

Others in Attendance: Chief Travis Medema, OSFM  
Staff: Valerie Abrahamson

### Meeting Minutes

- Motion for approval was made by Chris McLaran to approve the July 23, 2020 meeting minutes and seconded by Deputy Harrington. Motion passed unanimously.

### Executive Director's Report

- Chief Ruiz-Temple shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Labor Day fire and wind events, their impacts, and the response efforts from Oregon and 5 other states. She also shared OSFM's focuses following this historic fire season:
  - 2020 fire season—reimbursements to fire departments, addressing statewide needs and lessons learned, and preparing for legislative session and E-Board.
  - Recovery—Engaging with Building Codes Division, legislators, agencies, and the fire service on recovery and rebuilding.
  - Organizational Focus—short term and long term focuses.
- Chief Ruiz-Temple introduced Chief Travis Medema who has recently joined the OSFM as the Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal. Medema comes to the OSFM from Oregon Department of Forestry with 26+years of operations experience.

### ASSOCIATION REPORTS

#### *OFDDA Report – Mark Kreutzer*

- Mark shared that the OFDDA conference had to be cancelled. Alternately, a virtual business meeting will be held Saturday, October 24 for members and to hold the election of officers.

#### *OFMA Report—Jason Bolen*

- Jason shared that the OFMA met a week ago in Albany to hold a strategic planning session. The group came up with five objectives to focus on for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021. They were: Communication with membership, codes and legislation, membership drive and increasing membership, financial stability, and training.

### ***SDAO- Jason Jantzi***

- Jason shared SDAO is engaged with wildfire and Covid efforts. SDAO is also engaged with OSHA and their Covid rulemaking process.
- Jason shared SDAO was able to engage with the EAP program who offered telephone counseling to any wildland firefighter at no additional charge, noting there was a significant need for services. A councilor was also able to go to the Holiday Farm Fire to provide services.

### ***OSFFC Report—Karl Koenig***

- Karl shared OSFFC is working with OSHA and WCB regarding Covid and trying to get a respiratory protection standard worked out.
- OSFFC deployed IAFF Go Disaster staff to provide peer support to fires. 127 individual contacts were made. Reviews were very positive.
- Karl shared that the OSFFC has set its legislative agenda. Working on one LC regarding an apprentice program.

### ***OFCA Report—Chief Hallman***

- Chief Hallman shared the OFCA stood up a wildfire committee, chaired by Chief Johnson of Sisters FD, and the committee is engaged working with fire service partners.
- OFCA launched a health and wellness grant for fitness equipment. Fire service partners can contact the OFCA for more information.
- OFCA is preparing for the 2021 legislative session.

### ***OVFA Report—No Report***

## **MEMBER REPORTS**

### ***OSFM Report—Chief Heffner***

- Chief Heffner shared OSFMs organizational changes, noting the Emergency Response Unit has a new manager, Mariah Rawlins. The Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team is now part of the Special Operations Unit.
- The Regulatory Services Unit is working on how to do alternative inspections and in-person inspections during Covid-19 restrictions. The group is also leaning forward on getting ready for the 2021 fireworks season.
- The Fire and Life Safety Services Division is focused on filling deputy state fire marshal vacancies. This group is focusing on rebuilding code workshops along with BCD. They are also doing some work with ODF focusing on WUI workshops.
- Fire and Life Safety Education Division is working through filling staff vacancies in their Data and Analytics and Training sections. Reaching the public and partners with the loss of public outreach activities due to Covid restrictions is a focus.
- Chief Heffner shared the Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Team is well represented and pushing out great work. The group has put out a couple bulletins and working on guidance for upcoming OSHA rules and the Governor's new guidance.

### ***Property & Casualty Insurance—Chris McLaran***

- Chris thanked everyone who helped in the fire fight and put their lives at risk.
- Chris shared business is busy now serving members. He noted that work is being done at the state fairgrounds trying to help comfort, provide advice, and help with displaced members.
- Working with Dept. of Financial Regulation on questions regarding additional living expenses and extending rebuilding timelines.

### ***Public Member—Representative Neron***

- Representative Neron highlighted that her district served as an evacuation area for the Red Cross shelters who was set up at schools. Her district saw some level 2 evacuations, but was not evacuated.
- Representative Neron shared she had conversations with the City of Sherwood on the use of tents for outdoor dining and the current limitation for 180 days. She thanked the SFM for the quick response and conversations.

### ***League of Oregon Cities—Chief Critchley***

- Chief Hallman introduced Chief Critchley to the membership as a new member following the departure of Chief Clark. Chief Critchley shared with the group a brief background.
- Chief Critchley shared that he attended the LOC conference, describing it as successful with a lot of good information.

### **Ex-Officio Reports**

#### ***Oregon State Police—Deputy Superintendent Harrington***

- Deputy Harrington introduced himself to the group and provided a brief background.
- Oregon State Police assisted in the Labor Day wildfire evacuations, with notifications, as well as led the first deployment of the Mobile Morgue.
- Oregon State Police is assisting Portland Police Bureau with civil unrest as well as gearing up for potential election unrest.
- Deputy Harrington congratulated Director Gabliks on his new role with the National Fire Academy.

#### ***Oregon Health Authority—Dr. Dana Selover***

- Dr. Selover shared that Covid Response and Recovery Unit is working hard to respond across the state and to wildfires.
- Responded to two rural health facilities that were destroyed due to wildfires and working to get them what they need to get them up and running.
- Reviewing OR-OSHA temporary rules and how they may overlap with existing infectious disease guidance. Will likely put out a fact sheet for EMS and other facilities on how they overlap and intersect.
- EMS is preparing to help with an immunization campaign coming in 2021.
- Data team partnered with ODOT to provide grants, iPads and training in rural areas to assist with compliance.

#### ***DPSST Report—Director Eriks Gabliks***

- Chief Hallman congratulated Director Gabliks on his new appointment as Superintendent of the National Fire Academy. Hallman noted that this was a much deserved honor. Gabliks was virtually presented with a plaque for his 18 years of service to the council.
- DPSST campus continues to remain closed to visitors at least until the end of December due to COVID-19 safety measures. Training continues to be offered at the Academy and around the state.
- DPSST provided support and assistance to SFM, OEM, ODF during the recent wildfires. DPSST also helped deploy more than 375 members of the Oregon National Guard trained in July that it trained as wildland firefighters and trained an additional 375 guard members at the request of Governor Brown under Operation Plan Smokey.
- The 2019 Oregon Fallen Firefighter Memorial was postponed from its September 17, 2020 date due to Oregon's active wildfires.
- With interest across the nation and state on police training and accountability there are two active reviews underway of DPSST's work in this area. First, Governor Brown has formed a Task Force on Police Training and Accountability that includes law enforcement and community leaders. Second, the Secretary of State is conducting a performance audit looking at similar

items. DPSST welcomes both reviews and is always appreciative of feedback that enables the programs we provide to our stakeholders, and the communities they serve, to be the best possible.

- The recruitment for the next DPSST director is well underway.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***PFAS in Oregon—Chief Heffner***

- Chief Hallman began by sharing that PFAS (a chemical found in many things, including AFFF firefighting foam) is not an exact science but has been shown to contain cancer causing agents. The science on this is still evolving. There are concerns in Oregon with waterways and in the fire service. There has yet to be created a foam as effective as AFFF in aircraft hangar firefighting. This is the problem. Will be watching for any legislation and any potential impacts on the fire service.
- Chief Heffner shared he has been invited to participate in a working group with DEQ and OHA that is focused on PFAS.
- A number of water tests conducted by EPA have recently shown PFAS are showing up in some water tests. Testing sites included military sites, air fields, city wells, water wells, and at waste sites. DEQ and OHA will focus on military sites and firefighting training facilities, and on bio solid and recycled water sites.
- This group will work on a PFAS response plan designed with short term and long term strategies to address these issues and to collaborate and partner with multiple stakeholders and partners to reduce risks to the public and the environment, and to develop a risk communication plan that helps address this emerging issue.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### ***OSFM Governance***

- Chief Hallman shared that the OSFM Governance Task Force met yesterday.
- Chief Hallman shared that there continues to be work with the Governor's Office on support and looking for a third party objective opinion on what governance and finance model works best for the OSFM.
- Chief Hallman shared the task force is still active and focusing on statutes, an effective model and budget, and sustainability. This council is an advisory group to the Governor, and will be looking for a formal recommendation by Jan./Feb.

#### **Good of the Order**

No good of the order or visitor reports

#### **Adjournment:**

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 2:39 p.m.